



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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BAPCHULE MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR KIDNAPPING AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

PHOENIX – Christopher Johns, 22, of Bapchule, Ariz., was sentenced on June 4 to 240 months in prison by U.S. District Judge David G. Campbell. Johns had pleaded guilty on March 7 to Kidnapping and Aggravated Assault.

Johns was one of two men who in March 2006 car-jacked and kidnapped a man in Pinal County. When Pinal County Sheriff's Office responded to the car-jacking, the men fled in the vehicle to the Gila River Indian Reservation. During the car-jacking and kidnapping, the men told the victim that they were taking him to the desert to kill him. A high-speed chase resulted between the suspect vehicle and police vehicles. The suspect vehicle ultimately failed to complete a turn and rolled over. The suspects attempted to flee the scene and fired shots at Pinal County Sheriff's Officers. Johns was ultimately arrested. The other suspect, a non-tribal member, was arrested by the Pinal County Sheriff's Office.

Johns pleaded guilty to kidnapping the owner of the vehicle. Johns also pleaded guilty to Aggravated Assault for shooting at the police officers.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. The prosecution was handled by Sharon K. Sexton, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-387-PHX-DGC
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